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SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS AND ABSTRACT

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PATENT APPLICATION

**SEAT CUSHION WITH BUILT-IN
LEG WARMER/PROTECTOR**

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SEAT CUSHION WITH BUILT-IN LEG WARMER/PROTECTOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates generally to improvements in protective garments adapted for use by spectators at outdoor winter sports such as football games or the like, or by sportsmen such as duck hunters, for example.

2. Description of Prior Art

10 Those concerned with the development of protective clothing for spectators and hunters have long recognized the need for protecting the legs and feet of an individual even when such individuals are wearing warm boots and socks. Attempts in the past to provide some type of garment to keep the legs and feet warm have generally been in the form of a garment much like the lower half of a sleeping bag which has a bottom panel or flat area for receiving the feet of the wearer and an
15 insulated peripheral panel enclosing the legs and lower body of the wearer, up to the waist, with a zipper-type closure provided on the front of the garment to enable the wearer to easily get into and out of the garment. Some of these garments have seats formed into the garment itself in the form of inflatable pillows.

20 None of these prior art devices however, provide a unitized structure for the purpose of providing a seat cushion that also functions as a carrying case. The present invention, on the other hand, provides a convenient carrying case by integrating the seat-cushion and leg-warmer/protector into a unitary structure.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A combination seat-cushion and leg-warmer having a top, a bottom and a fastener for connecting the top and bottom together to enclose a space, contains an envelope shaped leg-warmer/protector, closed at one end by the bottom and open at its
5 other end. The top is attached to the open end of the envelope by a strap. The envelope receives the feet, legs and lower body, up to the waist, of a user. The strap is of sufficient length to allow the top to be placed so that the user can sit on the top, inside the envelope.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 The exact nature of this invention as well as its objects and advantages will be readily appreciated upon consideration of the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like referenced numerals designate like parts throughout the figures thereof and wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view, from the top, of a preferred embodiment of the
15 invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view, from the bottom, of a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the invention with the top and bottom unzipped;

20 Figure 4 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the invention with the seat-cushion, leg-warmer/protector combination unfolded; and

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the invention as used by a spectator or hunter.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Figure 1 illustrates the cushion form of the seat-cushion with built-in leg-warmer/protector 11 of the present invention. The cushion 11 comprises a top 13 preferably substantially rectangular in shape, of a convenient size, or, in the alternative, an oval or circular shape may also be used. The top 13 is preferably made of a tear-proof material. The cushion 11 also has a bottom 15, as more clearly illustrated in Figure 2, which is preferably made out of a molded vinyl or rubberized material that is not only tear-proof and water-proof but also highly abrasion resistant. The top 13 and bottom 15 are connected together by a side skirt 17 attached to a top 13 and a side-skirt 19 attached to the bottom 15 which has a fastener such as a Velcro™ strap or a zipper 21, or equivalent attached thereto and extending completely around the perimeter of cushion 11.

A handle 23 is attached to the bottom 15 of cushion 11. The handle 23 is preferably made out of the same material as the bottom 15, that is, a vinyl or rubberized material, and may be molded as a single piece with the bottom 15. Also attached to the bottom 15 is a pair of loops 31, 33 to which a strap 25 having latches 27, 29, at either end, are connected. Strap 25 is preferably a shoulder strap for cushion 11.

As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, seat cushion 11 is simply that, a cushion upon which a user may sit to watch a sporting event or to wait for game. If inclement weather ensues, the user simply unzips zipper 21, separating the top 13 and the bottom 15 into its two separate halves, as illustrated in Figure 3, to reveal the inside which

contains an envelope shaped leg-warmer/protector 39. The top 13 is attached to the envelope-shaped protector 39 by way of a strap 41.

Once unzipped, the envelope-shaped leg-warmer/protector 39 is pulled out of the bottom 15 portion of pad 11 to its full extended length, as shown in Figure 4, leaving the bottom end of the envelope-shaped leg-warmer/protector 39 attached to and enclosed by the bottom 15, and the top end completely open. Close to the upper edge 47 at the open end, a cinch strap 49 with mating buckle ends 51a and 51b is attached by belt loops 50, as shown, or by any other equivalent convenient means, to the leg protector tube 39.

The front of the envelope-shaped leg-warmer/protector 39 has a pleat 59 to allow expandability of its width and increase freedom of movement inside the envelope 39. A zipper 53 in one side running along the length of the envelope 39, allows for easy ingress and egress by a user. Another zipper 55 at the bottom of the envelope 39 allows for expanding the length of the envelope 39 by permitting an additional length of material 59 to be added to the envelope 39. The top 13 of the cushion 11 which is attached to the top 47 of envelope 39 by strap 41 is dropped into envelope 39. Strap 41 may be wide enough to include a pouch having an opening at its top 45 which can be closed by Velcro™ fastening means, or some other equivalent means. The strap 41 is at a length that conveniently locates the top 13 so that it is easily placed below the bottom of a user 57 when in a sitting position, as shown in Figure 5. The top 13, as shown in Figure 3, also has a pouch 35 on its underside, with a convenient Velcro™ fastener or other equivalent fastening means 37, for closing the pouch. The pouch 35 may be used for carrying a variety of material. The top 13 also

has padded material, such as foam or quilting, or any equivalent material located within it, to cushion the seat of the user when the leg-warmer/protector envelope 39 is being utilized.

As shown in Figure 5, the user 57 steps into the envelope 39, zips up the zipper 53, and cinches the belt 49 using cinching clasps 51 to snugly draw the open end 47 around his waist to prevent the air from circulating down into the interior of envelope 39.

The material of envelope 39 is preferably a tear-proof, soft luggage type material of sufficient weight to withstand extended years of use on hard surfaces. The interior of envelope 39 may have additional insulating layers (not shown) laminated thereto for additional strength and warmth without adding bulk and weight. Such additional layers may be attached by glue or quilting, for example.

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